

**DRAFT RESOLUTION LANGUAGE  
FROM CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP**

**FOR OCNMS ADVISORY COUNCIL DISCUSSION  
PRESENTED AT SEPTEMBER 25, 2015 MEETING**

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council's Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) was tasked with reviewing and revising, as necessary, OCNMS' Climate Change Action Plan, including the four identified strategies and its desired outcomes. A recommendation made by CCWG is to propose to National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) leadership that OCNMS be identified as a sentinel site for climate change research and monitoring. If possible, OCNMS should be considered a sentinel site for both ocean acidification and sea level rise. The justification for this recommendation, along with further details, was provided in the final report from CCWG, which includes the following highlights:

- its location as a gateway to the Salish Sea, allowing for detection of ocean acidification before entering an area of significantly valuable shellfish aquaculture industry;
- its undeveloped and rugged nature, minimizing other potentially synergistic attributes associated with development;
- its large network of supporting organizations, including academia and research institutes, tribal, local and state government management, non-governmental organizations, Marine Resource Committees and more;
- the availability of long-term oceanographic monitoring data and its importance to regional scientific databases;
- the susceptibility of natural resources to ocean acidification, from organisms at the base of the food chain (e.g. pteropods) to deep sea corals, and the potentially large impact to other marine life up the food chain;
- its unique position to study sea level rise and the regional variability
- its ability to serve as a pilot site, providing a framework that could be utilized by other national sites.

Other outcomes of the CCWG include an update on OCNMS climate change activities and priorities and discussions on next steps for OCNMS to pursue, which are: 1) support climate change training workshop(s) for outer coast communities; and 2) complete a climate change vulnerability assessment for OCNMS.